

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

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Claim 1. a solidifier for the solidification of a volume of liquid comprising:

a first absorbent,

a second absorbent,

said first absorbent having an apparent density which renders said first absorbent positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified,

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said second absorbent having an apparent density which renders said second absorbent negatively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified,

said first and second absorbents being combined in a mixture thereof.

Claim 2. The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein said mixture comprises substantially equal parts, by weight, of said first and second absorbents.

Claim 3. The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein said liquid to be solidified is contained within a vessel and said mixture comprises greater than fifty percent, by weight, of said second absorbent whereby said second absorbent tends to gravitate toward the bottom of said vessel.

Claim 4. The solidifier of Claim 3 wherein said mixture comprises between about eighty percent and about twenty percent, by weight of said first absorbent.

Claim 5. The solidifier of Claim 1 and including a third absorbent.

Claim 6. The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein said third solidifier exhibits an apparent density which renders said third absorbent positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified.

Claim 7. The solidifier of Claim 6 wherein the apparent density of said third absorbent is intermediate the apparent densities of said first and second absorbents.

Claim 8. The solidifier of Claim 7 wherein said mixture of absorbents comprises about fifty percent, by weight, of said

second absorbent, about ten percent, by weight, of said third absorbent, and about forty percent, by weight, of said first absorbent.

Claim 9. The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein the average particle size of said third absorbent is greater than the average particle size of said second absorbent.

Claim 10. The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein each of said absorbents is in the form of a flowable powder.

Claim 11. The solidifier of Claim 1 and further including packaging for said mixture which is dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed in said liquid to be solidified.

Claim 12. The solidifier of Claim 11 wherein said packaging comprises two or more compartments, each compartment containing a portion of one or more of said absorbents.

Claim 13. The solidifier of Claim 12 wherein said two or more compartments exhibit different rates of dissolution or disintegration when disposed in said liquid to be solidified.

Claim 14. The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein each of said absorbents is in the form of a flowable powder.

Claim 15. The solidifier of Claim 5 and further including packaging for said mixture which is dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed in said liquid to be solidified.

Claim 16. The solidifier of Claim 15 wherein said packaging comprises two or more compartments, each compartment containing a portion of one or more of said absorbents.

Claim 17. The solidifier of Claim 16 wherein said two or more compartments exhibit different rates of dissolution or disintegration when disposed in said liquid to be solidified.

Claim 18. A solidifier in powder form for solidifying a volume of liquid comprising:

a first mixture of powdered absorbents,

a second mixture of powdered absorbents,

said first mixture of powdered absorbents exhibiting an apparent density which renders said first mixture of powdered absorbents positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be

solidified,

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said second mixture of powdered absorbents exhibiting an apparent density which renders said second mixture of powdered absorbents negatively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified.

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Claim 19. A solidifier for a liquid sought to be solidified comprising a mixture of a plurality of different absorbents in flowable powder form, at least one of said absorbents having an apparent density which renders it negatively buoyant in the liquid sought to be solidified, and at least one of said absorbents having an apparent density which renders it positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified.

Claim 20. The solidifier of Claim 19 and including packaging for said mixture, said packaging being dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed within said liquid sought to be solidified.

Claim 21. The solidifier of Claim 19 wherein said mixture includes at least three different absorbents, two of said absorbents having respective apparent densities which render each negatively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified, and the third of said absorbents having an apparent density which renders said third absorbent positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified.

Claim 22. The solidifier of Claim 21 wherein said negatively buoyant absorbents exhibit different apparent densities whereby one of said negatively buoyant absorbents is more buoyant than the other of said negatively buoyant absorbents and said absorbent of lesser buoyancy enhances the distribution within said liquid of said absorbent of greater buoyancy.

Claim 23. A method for the solidification of a liquid comprising the steps of:

mixing together a first absorbent having an apparent density which renders said first absorbent positively buoyant relative to the liquid to be solidified whereby said first absorbent floats adjacent the surface of the liquid, and at least one further absorbent having an apparent density which renders said further absorbent negatively buoyant relative to the liquid to be solidified whereby said at least one further absorbent sinks toward the bottom of the liquid to be solidified, and

introducing at least a portion of said mixture into the liquid to be solidified.

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Claim 24. The method of Claim 23 and including the step of mixing a still further absorbent with said first and further absorbent, said still further absorbent having an apparent density intermediate the densities of said first and further absorbents and which renders said still further absorbent negatively buoyant relative to the liquid to be solidified.

Claim 25. The method of Claim 24 wherein said still further absorbent exhibits an average particle size greater than the average particle size of said at least one further absorbent.

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